

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 /089 W

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P R 061504Z MAR 78 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 673

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0707

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: CONCERN ABOUT ZANU "DISSIDENTS"

1. HENRY MAKONI, ZANU (MUGABE) LUSAKA REPRESENTATIVE AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, CAME IN TO SEE AMBASSADOR AND POLITICAL OFFICER MORNING OF MARCH 6. MAKONI'S MAIN PURPOSE FOR MEETING WAS TO ASK ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON CURRENT STATUS AND WHEREABOUTS OF RUGARE GUMBO, MUKUTU HAMADZIRIPI, AND THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM. HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GET ANY INFORMATION ON THESE ZANU MEMBERS, WHOM SOME HAD LABELED AS "DISSIDENTS," AND WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR WELFARE.

2. MAKONI SAID HE WOULD NOT BE WORRIED IF THEY WERE BEING HELD BY FRELIMO OR THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE HARMED. IF, HOWEVER, THEY WERE DETAINED
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AT ZANU CAMPS, "IT WOULD BE EASY TO SAY THEY WERE KILLED IN ACTION." IF THIS WAS THE CASE, HE SAID, THE CAMPS WOULD BE IN A STATE OF CIVIL WAR. MAKONI ALSO HAD A DEEPER PERSONAL INTEREST IN THAT HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD TO RETURN TO MAPUTO ON MARCH 5, BUT HAD DECIDED NOT TO UNTIL THE SITUATION WAS CLEARER. HE SAID HE WAS NOT A "GUMBO MAN," BUT SOME HAD CHARGED THAT HE WAS.

3. THE CURRENT INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF ZANU WERE NOT CAUSED SO MUCH BY A DIVISION BETWEEN THOSE WHO SUPPORTED OR OPPOSED CLOSER UNITY WITH ZAPU, ACCORDING TO MAKONI, BUT HE IMPLIED THAT IT WAS A FACTOR. IN THE RIVALRY BETWEEN TONGOGARA AND GUMBO/HAMADZIRIPI THE FORMER HAD BEEN KEEPING MILITARY INFORMATION TO HIMSELF AND TREATING ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT IT AS EVIDENCE OF DISLOYALTY TO HIMSELF AND MUGABE. THERE WERE ALSO "TRIBAL" FACTORS INVOLVED, BUT THESE WERE COMPLEX AND LINKS WERE MADE BETWEEN THOSE OF DIFFERENT TRIBAL GROUPINGS.

4. ASKED ABOUT CONTACTS BETWEEN SOME ZANU MEMBERS AND MUZOREWA'S PEOPLE IN RHODESIA, MAKONI MAINTAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT A MAJOR FACTOR IN ZANU'S CURRENT INTERNAL TENSIONS, ALTHOUGH HE DID AGREE SUCH CONTACTS HAD SOME EFFECT. MAKONI SAID THAT CONTACTS WITH MUZOREWA HAD BEEN MADE MAINLY THROUGH NATHAN CHAMERERE, A ZANU SUB-SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND TRIBAL BROTHER OF MUZOREWA'S, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE IF THEY WERE BEING MAINTAINED.

8. COMMENTAC MAKONI'S APPROACH TO US PRESENTED A SHARP INDICATION OF THE EXTENT OF CURRENT DIVISIONS WITH MUGABE'S ZANU ORGANIZATION. HIS CONCERN THAT GUMBO AND HIS ASSOCIATES MAY BE ELIMINATED WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY REAL TO HIM. WE TOLD MAKONI THAT WE WERE UNSURE WHETHER WE COULD OBTAIN THE INFORMATION HE DESIRED, BUT WOULD SEE WHAT WE COULD COME UP

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WITH AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM.WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH MAPUTO MAY HAVE ON GUMBO ET AL WHICH WE COULD DISCREETLY PASS TO MAKONI.

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